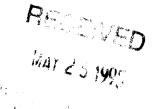
Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554



CONSOLIDATED OPPOSITION

Ameritech Wireless Communications, Inc. (AWCI), by its attorney and pursuant to Rule Section 1.45(b), hereby opposes the following pleadings submitted on May 12, 1995 seeking to delay the licensing of the A and B Block Major Trading Area (MTA) Personal Communications Services (PCS) frequencies: (1) Petition to Deny and Request for Stay filed by the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters, Percy Sutton, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (collectively, "NABOB"); (2) Application for Review and Request for Stay also filed by NABOB; and (3) Petition for Reconsideration by the Full Commission of Denial of Communications One, Inc. Emergency Motion to Defer MTA PCS Licensing ("CI Petition") (collectively, the "Petitions" or "Petitioners," as appropriate). As demonstrated below, these

AWCI has been advised by the staff of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau that, because the petitioners included their stay requests with other pleadings, the opposition deadline

parties have failed to justify the extraordinary measure of delaying the A and B Block licensing, and such course of action would be contrary to the public interest.²

I. STATEMENT OF INTEREST

AWCI participated in the A and B Block auction, and was the successful bidder for 30 MHz licenses to serve the Cleveland, Ohio MTA (Market No. M-16, Frequency Block A) and the Indianapolis, Indiana MTA (Market No. M-31, Frequency Block B). AWCI has bid \$158,100,000. It has already paid to the United States Government \$31,620,000, in the form of its upfront payment and subsequent bid deposit. AWCI stands ready to pay the balance of its bid, plan and construct its licensed systems, and provide advanced wireless services to the public in these areas. Therefore, any delay in the licensing of the A and B Blocks will harm AWCI and its prospective customers substantially.

II. PETITIONERS HAVE NOT DEMONSTRATED THAT A STAY IS JUSTIFIED.

Other parties in this proceeding have more than adequately demonstrated that NABOB and CI have failed to demonstrate justification for a stay. See May 19, 1995 Consolidated Opposition of PCS PRIMECO, L.P.; May 19, 1995 Opposition of Pacific Telesis Mobile Systems; May 19, 1995 Opposition to Request for Stay of WirelessCo,

is the normal 10 days plus mailing days contemplated by Rule Section 1.45(b).

The CI Petition is primarily directed against three A and B Block auction winners, none of which are AWCI. Therefore, AWCI opposes the CI Petition only to the extent that it seeks to delay the A and B Block licensing process in general.

L.P. and PhillieCo, L.P. AWCI concurs in the substantial showing by these parties that the petitions must be denied. As demonstrated in the oppositions, each of the stay requests were improperly included with other requests for Commission action, in violation of Rule Section 1.44(e). More importantly, the Petitions have utterly failed to make the showing required by <u>Virginia Petroleum Jobbers Ass'n v. FCC</u>, 259 F.2d 921 (D.C. Cir. 1958) as modified by <u>Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission v. Holiday Tours, Inc.</u>, 559 F.2d 841 (D.C. Cir. 1977). Under this precedent, the Petitioners must show (1) a strong likelihood of prevailing of the merits; (2) irreparable harm if the stay is not granted; (3) the absence of harm to others if the stay is granted; and (4) that the public interest will be served if the stay is granted.

The Petitioners fail to show that they are likely to succeed on the merits of their challenge to the A and B Block licensing. The Commission has already addressed the arguments by the Petitioners that designated entities should have been given more benefits in the A and B Block auctions, pursuant to exhaustive rulemakings in which Petitioners were given numerous opportunities to participate. Indeed, Petitioners took full advantage of these opportunities. The Commission properly concluded that its dual statutory obligations to speed advanced wireless services to the public and to encourage participation by designated entities was best met by allowing designated entity participation in the A and B Block auction, while setting aside the C and F Blocks as

restricted licenses for smaller entities only. The Commission has also accorded numerous benefits to designated entities seeking these set-aside licenses. In this way, designated entities have full opportunity to bid on all licenses, and are given substantial advantages over other applicants with regard to a third of the available PCS spectrum. See Fifth Report and Order, PP Docket No. 93-253, 9 FCC Rcd 5532, 5580 (1994). The Commission also took extraordinary measures to ensure that the licenses will be widely disseminated, including spectrum caps, cellular cross ownership restrictions, and a limit on the total number of licenses that can be held.

Petitioners' argument that the C Block licensees will be harmed by a competitive headstart is likewise unfounded. The headstart issue never materialized in the context of cellular service, and the Commission has already addressed Petitioners' headstart arguments in the PCS rulemakings. See Fourth Memorandum Opinion and Order, PP Docket No. 93-253, 9 FCC Rcd 6858, 6863-64 (1994). Petitioners have not demonstrated why reseller rights will not mitigate any arguable headstart. Moreover, a headstart did not materialize in cellular even though both licensees in each market were providing substantially identical services. PCS, on the other hand, will provide a broad array of advanced wireless video and data services, with numerous niche services possible. Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Tentative Decision, FCC Rcd 5676, 5689 (1992). Therefore, it is even less likely that the A and B Block winners would be able to capture a dominant market share, where C

Block licensees will be able to focus on services of which the A and B Block winners may not even be aware. There will be a premium on market analysis and creativity.

Instead, the Commission properly found that staggered auctions would (1) help to meet the Congressional mandate to speed service to the public, and (2) benefit designated entities by facilitating partnerships between these entities and the A and B Block auction losers, and by providing C Block auction participants with important information concerning the value of the spectrum. Petitioners' efforts to reargue these issues constitute an untimely request for reconsideration of the rulemaking. Fourth Memorandum and Order, supra, 9 FCC Rcd at 6863-64.

Thus, Petitioners have not shown a likelihood of success on the merits. For these same reasons, the Petitioners have not shown irreparable harm. C Block bidders will benefit from the staggered auction by gaining potential investors from those who were unsuccessful in the A and B Block auction.

In contrast, others will be significantly harmed by a licensing delay. First and foremost, the public will be harmed by a delay in the availability of advanced telecommunications services. Also, to the extent that broadband PCS will compete with cellular, the public will also be deprived of lower prices. AWCI will be harmed by having its substantial deposit unavailable; moreover, the remainder of its bid will not be available for other projects, since AWCI must be held ready to pay to the Commission upon short notice. Also, AWCI's business plans will be disrupted.

Finally, the United States Government will be substantially harmed in its efforts to bring the national deficit under control. This is one of the central issues which the Government is currently trying to address.

Finally, for all of the above reasons, a grant of the requested stays would not serve the public interest.

The same substantial evidence against a stay likewise refutes NABOB's Petition to Deny. NABOB has made vaque allegations of anti-competitive conduct by certain bidders, which AWCI presumes will be addressed by these parties. However, NABOB's arguments against those bidders in no way justifies a delay in the licensing of AWCI and the other A and B Block winners who are in no way connected with these allegations. The only other argument that AWCI's application should be denied is the unfounded claim of a As demonstrated above, this claim is utterly merit. and constitutes an untimely petition reconsideration. Indeed, AWCI notes that none of the parties have alleged that they will bid on C Block licenses in the Cleveland and Indianapolis MTAs. Therefore, there is no reason to delay the grant of AWCI's license.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the Petitions be dismissed as once. Otherwise, Petitioners will be successful in improperly delaying service to the public even if their requests are ultimately denied.

Respectfully submitted,

AMERITECH WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Frank Michael Panek, Esq. Ameritech Services 2000 West Ameritech Ctr Drive Location 4H84 Hoffman Estates, IL 60195-5000

Filed: May 25, 1995

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John/A. Prendergast
Blodston, Mordkofsky, Jackson
& Dickens

2120 L Street, N.W., Suite 300 Washington, D.C. 20037

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, John A. Prendergast, do hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing "Consolidated Opposition" was served this 25th day of May, 1995 by first class United States mail, postage prepaid, to the following:

American Portable Telecommunications, Inc. 30 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 4000 Chicago, IL 60602

Centennial Cellular Corp. 50 Locust Avenue New Canaan, CT 06840

Cox Cable Communications, Inc. Suite 200 1320-19th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036

PhillieCo, L.P. Suite 1100 1850 M Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036

WirelessCo, L.P. Suite 1100 1850 M Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036

John A. Malloy, General Counsel GO Communications Corporation 201 No. Union Street, Suite 410 Alexandria, VA 22314

Lawrence R. Sidman
Julia F. Kogan
Neil H. MacBride
Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard,
McPherson and Hand
901 Fifteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-2301

David Furth Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Federal Communications Commission 2025 M Street, N.W., Room 5202 Washington, D.C. 20554 Rosalind K. Allen Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Federal Communications Commission 2025 M Street, N.W., Room 5202 Washington, D.C. 20554

Larry Atlas Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Federal Communications Commission 2025 M Street, N.W., Rm. 5002-E Washington, D.C. 20554

Jackie Chorney
Office of Plans and Policy
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Rm. 838-G
Washington, D.C. 20554

Kathleen Ham Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Federal Communications Commission 2025 M mStreet, N.W., Rm. 5126-F Washington, D.C. 20554

Sally Novak
Wireless Telecommunications Commission
Federal Communications Commission
2025 M Street, N.W., Room 5202
Washington, D.C. 20554

Chairman Reed Hundt Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Rm. 814 Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner James H. Quello Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Rm. 802 Washington, D.C. 20554 Commissioner Andrew C. Barrett Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Rm. 826 Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner Rachelle Chong Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Rm. 844 Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner Susan Ness Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Rm. 832 Washington, D.C. 20554

Ruth Milkman, Senior Legal Advisor Office of Commissioner Reed Hundt Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Rm. 814 Washington, D.C. 20554

Karen Brinkmann, Special Assistant Office of Commissioner Reed Hundt Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Rm. 814 Washington, D.C. 20554

Lauren J. Belvin, Senior Legal Advisor Office of Commissioner James H. Quello Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Rm. 802 Washington, D.C. 20554

Keith Townsend, Senior Legal Advisor Office of Commissioner Andrew C. Barrett Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Rm. 826 Washington, D.C. 20554

Richard K. Welch, Legal Advisor Office of Commissioner Rachelle Chong Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Rm. 844 Washington, D.C. 20554

Jane E. Mago, Senior Advisor Office of Commissioner Rachelle Chong Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Rm. 844 Washington, D.C. 20554 Jill M. Luckett, Special Advisor Office of Commissioner Rachelle Chong Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Rm. 844 Washington, D.C. 20554

Williamm E. Kennard, General Counsel Office of General Counsel Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Rm. 614 Washington, D.C. 20554

Christopher J. Wright
Deputy General Counsel
Office of General Counsel
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Rm. 614
Washington, D.C. 20554

Jonathan Cohen
Office of Plans and Policy
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Rm. 822
Washington, D.C. 20554

Mary P. McManus, Legal Advisor Office of Commissioner Susan Ness Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Rm. 832 Washington, D.C. 20554

David R. Siddall, Legal Advisor Office of Commissioner Susan Ness Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Rm. 832 Washington, D.C. 20554

Kathleen Wallman, Chief Common Carrier Bureau Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Rm. 500 Washington, D.C. 20554

A. Richard Metzger, Jr., Deputy Chief Common Carrier Bureau Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Rm. 500 Washington, D.C. 20554 Mr. Donald Gips, Deputy Chief Office of Plans and Policy Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Rm. 822 Washington, D.C. 20554

International Transcription Services Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Rm. 246 Washington, D.C. 20554

Robert Pepper, Chief Office of Plans and Policy Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Rm. 822 Washington, D.C. 20554

Michael Katz, Chief Economist Office of Plans and Policy Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Rm. 822 Washington, D.C. 20554

Kathleen Levitz, Deputy Bureau Chief Common Carrier Bureau Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Rm. 500 Washington, D.C. 20554

Ralph A. Haller, Deputy Chief Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Federal Communications Commission 2025 M Street, N.W., Rm. 5002 Washington, D.C. 20554

Gerald P. Vaughan, Deputy Chief Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Federal Communications Commission 2025 M Street, N.W., Rm. 5002 Washington, D.C. 20554

Regina Keeney, Chief Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Federal Communications Commission 2025 M Street, N.W., Rm. 5002 Washington, D.C. 20554

Jonathan D. Blake, Esq. Kurt A. Wimmer, Esq. Covington & Burling 1201 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. P.O. Box 7566 Washington, D.C. 20044 William J. Franklin, Esq. William J. Franklin, Chartered Suite 300 1919 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006-3404

Philip L. Verveer
Jennifer A. Donaldson
Willkie Farr & Gallagher
Three Lafayette Center
1155 21st Street, N.W., Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20036-3384

Kenneth R. Cole, Vice President Century Telephone Enterprises, Inc. 100 Century Park Drive Monroe, LA 71203

Ellen S. Deutsch Jackqueline R. Kinney Citizens Utilities Company 8920 Emerald Park Drive, Ste. C Post Office Box 340 Elk Grove, CA 95759-0340

John A. Malloy, General Counsel Jill Foehrkolb, Dir. of Legal Affairs Columbia PCS 201 N. Union Street, Suite 410 Alexandria, VA 22314

Joe D. Edge, Esq. Mark F. Dever, Esq. Drinker, Biddle & Reath Suite 900 901 Fifteenth Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005

Stephen G. Kraskin, Esq. Sylvia Lesse, Esq. Charles D. Cosson, Esq. Kraskin, Lesse & Associates 2120 L Street, N.W., Ste. 520 Washington, D.C. 20037

Gail L. Polivy GTE Corp. 1850 M Street, N.W., Suite 1200 Washington, D.C. 20036

Thomas A. Karl, President Karl Brothers, Inc. Post Office Box 53040 Fairbanks, AK 99711 Thomas J. Casey, Esq.
Jay L. Birnbaum, Esq.
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
1440 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-2111
Counsel for Lehman Brothers

Joseph A. Belisle, Esq. Karsten Amlie, Esq. Leibowitz and Associates, PEA One South East Third Avenue, Ste. 1450 Miami, FL 33131 Counsel for MasTec. Inc.

Cathleen A. Massey Senior Regulatory Counsel McCaw Cellular Communications, Inc. 1150 Connecticut Ave., N.W., 4th Floor Washington, D.C. 20554

W. Chris Blane, President Metrex Communications Group, Inc. Five Concourse Parkway, Ste. 3100 Atlanta, GA 30328

Henry Solomon, Esq.
Amelia Brown, Esq.
Haley, Bader & Potts
4350 N. Fairfax Drive, Ste. 900
Arlington, VA 22203-1633
Counsel for National Paging
and Personal Communications
Association

Mark J. Tauber, Esq.
Mark J. O'Connor, Esq.
Piper & Marbury
1200 19th Street, N.W., Seventh Floor
Washington, D.C. 20036
Counsel for Omnipoint Communications, Inc.

James L. Winston, Esq. Rubin, Winston, Diercks, Harris & Cooke Suite 1000 1333 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036 David L. Nace, Esq.
Marci E. Greenstein, Esq.
Lukas, McGowan, Nace
& Gutierrez, Chartered
1111 Nineteenth St., N.W., Ste. 1200
Washington, D.C. 20036
Counsel for Pacific Telecom
Cellular, Inc.

Patricia Diaz Dennis, Esq.
Sullivan & Cromwell
1701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
Counsel for Roland A. Hernandez

Robert H. Kyle, President Kycom, Inc. 96 Hillbrook Drive Portola Valley, CA 94028

Doris S. Freedman, Esq. Barry Pineless, Esq. Office of Advocacy U.S. Small Business Administration 409 3rd Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

Robert E. Levine, Esq.
Latrice Kirkland, Esq.
Mullin, Rhyne, Emmons and Topel, P.C.
Suite 300
1225 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
Counsel for USIMTA/USIPCA

Paul C. Besozzi, Esq.
Besozzi, Gavin & Craven
Suite 200
1901 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
Counsel for Vanguard Cellular
Systems, Inc.

Martin T. McCue, Esq. United States Telephone Association 1401 H Street, N.W., Suite 600 Washington, D.C. 20005 George Y. Wheeler, Esq. Koteen & Naftalin Suite 1000 1150 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036 Counsel for Telephone and Data Systems, Inc.

Mark J. Golden, CAE Vice President-Industry Affairs Personal Communications Industry Association 1019 19th Street, N.W., Ste. 1100 Washington, D.C. 20036-5105

Daniel C. Riker, President & CEO DCR Communications, Inc. 2550 M Street, N.W., Suite 200 Washington, D.C. 20007

Encompass, Inc. Two Ravinia Drive, Suite 1205 Atlanta, GA 30346

Thomas A. Hart, Jr., Esq. Michael Heningburg, Jr., Esq. McManimon & Scotland Suite 500 1275 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20004

Curtis White Allied Communications Group, Inc. Suite 402 4201 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20008-1158

William D. Jimerson Alliance Telecom, Inc. 34 Woodbine Road Pittsford, NY 15534

Melodie A. Virtue American Women in Radio and Television, Inc. Haley, Bader & Potts 4350 N. Fairfax Dr., Suite 900 Arlington, VA 22203-1633 Timothy E. Welch, Esq.
Hill & Welch
Suite 113
1330 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
Counsel for Communications
One. Inc.

Larry Irving
National Telecommunications and
Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th & Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

National Association of Minority Telecommunications Executives & Companies One Thomas Circle, Suite 500 Washington, D.C. 20005

Daryl L. Avery
Public Service Commission of the
District of Columbia
450 Fifth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Peter J. Mitchell
Minority Business Enterprise Legal
Defense & Education Fund, Inc.
Suite 280
220 I Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Veronica M. Ahern Nixon, Hargrave, Devans & Doyle Suite 700 One Thomas Circle Washington, D.C. 20005

Joseph Profit, Sr., Chairman Communications International Wireless Corporation NAMTEC 521 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800 New York, NY 10017

American Portable Telecommunications, Inc. Attn: Rudolph H. Hornacek 30 North LaSalle Street, Ste 4000 Chicago, IL 60602 Ameritech Wireless Communications, Inc.
Attn: Evan B. Richards
30 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606

AT&T Wireless PCS, Inc. Attn: Cathleen A. Massey Fourth Floor 1150 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036

BellSouth Personal Communica tions, Inc. Attn: Rebecca A. Jackson Suite 400 North Tower 3353 Peachtree Road Atlanta, GA 30326

Centennial Cellular Corporation c/o Richard Rubin Fleishman & Walsh, L.L.P. 1400 16th Street, N.W., Suite 600 Washington, D.C. 20036

Communications Internat'l Corporation Attn: Neil S. McKay 717 West Sprague Avenue, Suite 1600 Spokane, WA 99204-0466

Cox Communications, Inc. Attn: Richard Kimsey 1400 Lake Hearn Drive, N.E. Atlanta, GA 30319

GCI Communications Corporation Attn: Richard P. Dewling 2550 Denali Street, Suite 1000 Anchorage, AK 99503-2781

GTE Macro Communications Corporation Attn: Regulatory 245 Perimeter Center Parkway Atlanta, GA 30346

Pacific Telesis Mobile Services Attn: Mike Patrick Building 2, Fourth Floor 4420 Rosewood Drive Pleasanton, CA 94588 PCS PRIMECO, L.P. c/o AirTouch Communications, Inc. Attn: Kathleen Q. Abernathy 1818 N Street, N.W., Suite 800 Washington, D.C. 20036

PhillieCo. L.P. 9221 Ward Parkway Kansas City, MO 64114

Poka Lambro Telephone Cooperative, Inc. 11.5 Miles North of Tahoka TX on U.S. 87 P.O. Box 1340 Tahoka, TX 79373-7234

Powertel PCS Partners, L.P. 421 Gilmer Avenue P.O. Box 657 Lanett, AL 36863

South Seas Satellite Communications Corporation c/o 25 Stonington Road South Laguna, CA 92677

Southwestern Bell Mobile Systems, Inc. Attn: Steve Portnoy 17330 Preston Road, Suite 100A Dallas, TX 75252

Western PCS Corporation Attn: John W. Stanton 330 120th Avenue, N.E., Suite 200 Bellevue, WA 98005

WirelessCo. L.P. 9221 Ward Parkway Kansas City, MO 64114

Wade Henderson, Director
Washington Bureau
National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People
1025 Vermont Ave., N.W., Ste. 1120
Washington, D.C. 20005

Lois E. Wright, Esq. Vice President and Corporate Counsel Inner City Broadcasting Corp. Three Park Avenue, 40th Floor New York, NY 10014

James P. Tuthill
Betsy Stover Granger
Fourth Floor
4420 Rosewood Drive, Bldg. 2
Pleasanton, CA 94588
Counsels for Pacific Telesis
Mobile Systems

James L. Wurtz
Margaret E. Garber
1275 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
Counsels for Pacific Telesis
Mobile Systems

Michael K. Kellogg
Jeffrey A. Lamken
Kellogg, Huber, Hansen, et al
Suite 500 East
1300 I Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
Counsels for Pacific Telesis
Mobile Systems

Jay C. Keithley 1850 M Street, N.W., Ste 1100 Washington, D.C. 20036 Counsel for WirelessCo, L.P. and Phillieco, L.P.

W. Richard Morris 2330 Shawnee Mission Parkway Westwood, KS 66205 Counsel for WirelessCo, L.P. and Phillieco, L.P.

Cheryl A. Tritt
Joan E. Neal
Morrison & Foerster
Suite 5500
2000 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
Counsel for WirelessCo, L.P. and and Phillieco, L.P.

John A. Prendergast